

FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**SENATE BILL NOS. 44 & 59**  
**91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Reported from the Committee on Children, Families and Health, May 15, 2001, with recommendation that the House Committee Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 44 & 59 Do Pass.

TED WEDEL, Chief Clerk

0324L.11C

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**AN ACT**

To repeal sections 207.020, 211.183, 453.005, 453.010, 453.070, 453.073, 453.080, 568.030, 568.045 and 568.050, RSMo 2000, relating to adoption, and to enact in lieu thereof fourteen new sections relating to the same subject.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Sections 207.020, 211.183, 453.005, 453.010, 453.070, 453.073, 453.080, 568.030, 568.045 and 568.050, RSMo 2000, are repealed and fourteen new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 191.975, 207.020, 210.950, 211.183, 453.005, 453.010, 453.070, 453.073, 453.080, 476.777, 488.636, 568.030, 568.045 and 568.050, to read as follows:

**191.975. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Adoption Awareness Law".**

**2. To raise public awareness and to educate the public, the department of social services shall be responsible for:**

**(1) Collecting and distributing resource materials to educate the public about foster care and adoption;**

**(2) Developing and distributing educational materials, including but not limited to videos, brochures and other media as part of a comprehensive public relations campaign about the positive option of adoption and foster care. The materials shall include, but not be limited to, information about:**

**(a) The benefits of adoption and foster care;**

**EXPLANATION —** Matter enclosed in bold faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

- 12           (b) Adoption and foster care procedures;
- 13           (c) Means of financing the cost of adoption and foster care, including but not
- 14 limited to adoption subsidies, foster care payments and special needs adoption tax credits;
- 15           (d) Options for birth parents in choosing adoptive parents;
- 16           (e) Protection for and rights of birth parents and adoptive parents prior to and
- 17 following the adoption;
- 18           (f) Location of adoption and foster care agencies;
- 19           (g) Information regarding various state health and social service programs for
- 20 pregnant women and children, including but not limited to medical assistance programs
- 21 and temporary assistance for needy families (TANF); and
- 22           (h) Referrals to appropriate counseling services, including but not be limited to
- 23 counseling services for parents who are considering retaining custody of their children,
- 24 placing their children for adoption, or becoming foster or adoptive parents; but excluding
- 25 any referrals for abortion or to abortion facilities;
- 26           (3) Making such educational materials available through state and local public
- 27 health clinics, public hospitals, family planning clinics, abortion facilities as defined in
- 28 section 188.015, RSMo, maternity homes as defined in section 135.600, RSMo, child placing
- 29 agencies licensed pursuant to sections 210.481 to 210.536, RSMo, attorneys whose practice
- 30 involves private adoptions, in vitro fertilization clinics and private physicians for
- 31 distribution to their patients who request such educational materials. Such materials shall
- 32 also be available to the public through the department of social services' Internet web site;
- 33 and
- 34           (4) Establishing a toll-free telephone number for information on adoption and
- 35 foster care.
- 36           3. The duties prescribed in this section shall be subject to appropriations by the
- 37 general assembly.
- 38           4. The department shall promulgate rules and regulations for the implementation
- 39 of this section in accordance with chapter 536, RSMo.
- 207.020. 1. In addition to the powers, duties and functions vested in the division of
- 2 family services by other provisions of this chapter or by other laws of this state, the division of
- 3 family services shall have the power:
- 4           (1) To sue and be sued;
- 5           (2) To make contracts and carry out the duties imposed upon it by this or any other law;
- 6           (3) To administer, disburse, dispose of and account for funds, commodities, equipment,
- 7 supplies or services, and any kind of property given, granted, loaned, advanced to or appropriated
- 8 by the state of Missouri for any of the purposes herein;

9           (4) To administer oaths, issue subpoenas for witnesses, examine such witnesses under  
10 oath, and make and keep a record of same;

11           (5) To adopt, amend and repeal rules and regulations necessary or desirable to carry out  
12 the provisions of this chapter and which are not inconsistent with the constitution or laws of this  
13 state;

14           (6) To cooperate with the United States government in matters of mutual concern  
15 pertaining to any duties wherein the division of family services is acting as a state agency,  
16 including the adoption of such methods of administration as are found by the United States  
17 government to be necessary for the efficient operation of state plans hereunder;

18           (7) To make such reports in such form and containing such information as the United  
19 States government may, from time to time, require, and comply with such provisions as the  
20 United States government may, from time to time, find necessary to assure the correctness and  
21 verification of such reports;

22           (8) To establish, extend and strengthen child welfare services for the protection and care  
23 of homeless, dependent and neglected children and children in danger of becoming delinquent;

24           (9) To expend child welfare service funds for payment of part of the cost of district,  
25 county or other local child welfare services;

26           (10) To administer state child welfare activities and develop state services for the  
27 encouragement and assistance of adequate methods of community child welfare organizations;

28           (11) To appoint, when and if it may deem necessary, advisory committees to provide  
29 professional or technical consultation in respect to welfare problems and welfare administration.  
30 The members of such advisory committees shall receive no compensation for their services other  
31 than expenses actually incurred in the performance of their official duties. The number of  
32 members of each such advisory committee shall be determined by the division of family services,  
33 and such advisory committees shall consult with and advise the division of family services in  
34 respect to problems and policies incident to the administration of the particular function germane  
35 to the respective field of competence;

36           (12) To initiate or cooperate with other agencies in developing measures for the  
37 prevention of dependency and the rehabilitation of needy persons;

38           (13) To collect statistics, make special fact-finding studies and publish reports in  
39 reference to public welfare;

40           (14) To establish or cooperate in research or demonstration projects relative to the  
41 welfare program, such as those relating to the prevention and reduction of dependency and  
42 economic distress, or which will aid in effecting coordination of planning between private and  
43 public welfare agencies, or which will help improve the administration and effectiveness of  
44 programs carried on or assisted under the federal Social Security Act and the programs related

45 thereto;

46 (15) To provide appropriate public welfare services to promote, safeguard and protect  
47 the social well-being and general welfare of children and to help maintain and strengthen family  
48 life, and to provide such public welfare services to aid needy persons who can be so helped to  
49 become self-supporting or capable of self-care;

50 (16) Upon request, to cooperate with the juvenile court and furnish social studies and  
51 reports to the court with respect to children as to whom adoption or neglect petitions have been  
52 filed;

53 (17) To accept for social services and care, homeless, dependent or neglected children  
54 in all counties where legal custody is vested in the division of family services by the juvenile  
55 court where the juvenile court has acquired jurisdiction pursuant to subdivision (1) or (2) of  
56 subsection 1 of section 211.031, RSMo; provided that prior to legal custody being vested in the  
57 division of family services, the division of family services shall conduct an evaluation of the  
58 child, examine the child and investigate all pertinent circumstances of his **or her** background for  
59 the purpose of determining appropriate services and a treatment plan for the child. This  
60 evaluation shall involve local division staff and consultation with the juvenile officer or [his] **the**  
61 **officer's** designee, appropriate state agencies, including but not limited to the department of  
62 mental health and the department of elementary and secondary education, or private practitioners  
63 who are knowledgeable of the child or programs or services appropriate to the needs of the child  
64 and shall be completed within thirty days. Temporary custody may be placed with the division  
65 of family services while the evaluation is being conducted. A report of such proceedings and  
66 findings shall be submitted in writing to the appropriate court:

67 (a) The division may, at any time, if it finds the child placed in its custody is in need of  
68 care or treatment other than that which it can provide, apply to the court which placed such child  
69 for an order relieving it of custody of such child. The court must make a determination within  
70 ten days and the court shall be vested with full power to make such disposition of the child as  
71 is authorized by law, including continued custody;

72 (b) **The division may, prior to the child's eighteenth birthday, if it finds the child**  
73 **placed in its custody is in need of care or treatment beyond the child's eighteenth birthday,**  
74 **apply to the court which placed such child for an order extending custody of such child for**  
75 **good cause. The court shall make a determination prior to the child's eighteenth birthday**  
76 **and the court shall be vested with full power to make such disposition of the child as is**  
77 **authorized by law, including continued custody beyond the child's eighteenth birthday;**

78 (c) However, no payments for care shall be made:

79 a. To facilities with which the division of family services has no contract to provide such  
80 care, or to facilities in the state of Missouri which are not licensed by the state of Missouri unless

81 exempt from such licensure;

82 b. To any facility outside the state of Missouri unless the division of family services  
83 determines that there is no facility in the state of Missouri which can provide substantially  
84 equivalent care, except that this limitation shall not apply to any facility outside the state of  
85 Missouri if that facility is the closest available facility to the child's home or the division of  
86 family services determines that such placement is in the child's best interest; nor

87 c. To any facility outside the state of Missouri which is not licensed or exempted from  
88 licensure by the state in which it is located, or which cannot document that it meets requirements  
89 which would be necessary for licensure in the state of Missouri. The term "care" shall include  
90 room, board, clothing, medical care, dental care, social services and incidentals;

91 (18) To accept gifts and grants of any property, real or personal, and to sell said property  
92 and expend such gifts or grants not inconsistent with the administration of this chapter and  
93 within the limitations imposed by the donor thereof;

94 (19) To make periodic surveys of cost-of-living factors in relation to the needs of  
95 recipients of public assistance, and establish standards or budgetary guides for determining  
96 minimum costs of meeting such requirements, and amend such standards from time to time as  
97 circumstances may require.

98 2. All powers and duties of the division of family services shall, so far as applicable,  
99 apply to the administration of any other law or state law wherein duties are imposed upon the  
100 division of family services acting as a state agency.

**210.950. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Safe Place for  
2 Newborns Act of 2001". The purpose of this section is to protect newborn children from  
3 injury and death caused by abandonment by a parent, and to provide safe and secure  
4 alternatives to such abandonment.**

5 **2. As used in this section, the following terms mean:**

6 **(1) "Nonrelinquishing parent", the biological parent who does not leave a newborn  
7 infant with any person listed in subsection 3 of this section in accordance with this section;**

8 **(2) "Relinquishing parent", the biological parent or person acting on such parent's  
9 behalf who leaves a newborn infant with any person listed in subsection 3 of this section  
10 in accordance with this section.**

11 **3. In any prosecution of a parent for a violation of section 568.030, 568.045 or  
12 568.050, RSMo, relating to the parent's child, it shall be an affirmative defense that:**

13 **(1) Expressing intent not to return for the child, the parent voluntarily delivered  
14 the child safely to the physical custody of any of the following persons:**

15 **(a) An employee, agent or member of the staff of any twenty-four-hour medical  
16 facility licensed pursuant to chapter 197, RSMo, on duty in a paid or volunteer position;**

17           (b) A firefighter or emergency medical technician on duty in a paid or volunteer  
18 position;

19           (c) A law enforcement officer on duty; or

20           (d) A member of the clergy.

21           (2) The child was no more than thirty days old when delivered by the parent to any  
22 person listed in subdivision (1) of this subsection; and

23           (3) The child was not abused or neglected by the parent.

24           4. A person listed in subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section shall, without a  
25 court order, take physical custody of a child the person reasonably believes to be no more  
26 than thirty days old and is delivered in accordance with this section by a person purporting  
27 to be the child's parent. If delivery of a newborn is made pursuant to this section in any  
28 place other than a twenty-four-hour medical facility licensed pursuant to chapter 197,  
29 RSMo, the person taking physical custody of the child shall arrange for the immediate  
30 transportation of the child to the nearest twenty-four-hour medical facility licensed  
31 pursuant to chapter 197, RSMo.

32           5. The twenty-four-hour medical facility, its employees, agents and medical staff  
33 shall perform any act necessary, in accordance with generally accepted standards of  
34 professional practice, to protect the physical health or safety of the child. The twenty-four-  
35 hour medical facility shall notify the division of family services upon receipt of a child  
36 pursuant to this section and shall notify the local juvenile officer at such time as the child  
37 is medically ready for discharge and the local juvenile officer shall begin protective custody  
38 proceedings. Upon receipt of the protective custody order, the division of family services  
39 shall take physical custody of the child within six hours. The parent's voluntary delivery  
40 of the child in accordance with this section shall constitute the parent's implied consent to  
41 any such act and a voluntary relinquishment of such parent's parental rights.

42           6. In any termination of parental rights proceeding initiated after the  
43 relinquishment of a child pursuant to this section, the court shall make public notice that  
44 a child has been relinquished, including the sex of the child, and the date and location of  
45 such relinquishment. Within thirty days, the nonrelinquishing parent shall identify  
46 himself or herself to the court and state his or her intentions regarding the child. The court  
47 shall initiate proceedings to establish paternity.

48           7. (1) If a relinquishing parent of a child relinquishes custody of the child to any  
49 person listed in subsection 3 of this section in accordance with this section, the  
50 nonrelinquishing parent may file an action for custody of the child. The nonrelinquishing  
51 parent shall file such action, pursuant to the procedures in section 453.030, RSMo, within  
52 thirty days after any person listed in subsection 3 of this section accepts custody of the

53 **child from the relinquishing parent. In such action, the nonrelinquishing parent shall**  
54 **prove that he or she is the parent of the child.**

55 **(2) If a nonrelinquishing parent fails to file an action within the thirty-day period**  
56 **specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the nonrelinquishing parent shall be forever**  
57 **barred from filing an action for custody of the child and, by operation of law and without**  
58 **any court proceeding, shall have all of his or her rights terminated with respect to the**  
59 **child.**

60 **(3) When a nonrelinquishing parent inquires at a twenty-four-hour medical facility**  
61 **regarding a child whose custody was relinquished pursuant to this section, such facility**  
62 **shall refer the nonrelinquishing parent to the division of family services.**

63 **8. The twenty-four-hour medical facility and the persons listed in subdivision (1)**  
64 **of subsection 3 of this section shall be immune from civil, criminal and administrative**  
65 **liability for discharging in good faith the duties provided for in this section.**

66 **9. The division of family services shall:**

67 **(1) On the statewide toll-free telephone number maintained pursuant to section**  
68 **191.975, RSMo, provide information and answer questions concerning the process**  
69 **established by this section; and**

70 **(2) Provide information to the public through general public service**  
71 **announcements or by other means to deliver information concerning the process**  
72 **established by this section.**

73 **10. Nothing in this section shall be construed as conflicting with section 210.125.**

211.183. 1. In juvenile court proceedings regarding the removal of a child from his or  
2 her home, the court's order shall include a determination of whether the division of family  
3 services has made reasonable efforts to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child  
4 and, after removal, to make it possible for the child to return home. If the first contact with the  
5 family occurred during an emergency in which the child could not safely remain at home even  
6 with reasonable in-home services, the division shall be deemed to have made reasonable efforts  
7 to prevent or eliminate the need for removal.

8 2. "Reasonable efforts" means the exercise of reasonable diligence and care by the  
9 division to utilize all available services related to meeting the needs of the juvenile and the  
10 family. In determining reasonable efforts to be made and in making such reasonable efforts, the  
11 child's present and ongoing health and safety shall be the paramount consideration.

12 3. In support of its determination of whether reasonable efforts have been made, the  
13 court shall enter findings, including a brief description of what preventive or reunification efforts  
14 were made and why further efforts could or could not have prevented or shortened the separation  
15 of the family. The division shall have the burden of demonstrating reasonable efforts.

16           4. The juvenile court may authorize the removal of the child even if the preventive and  
17 reunification efforts of the division have not been reasonable, but further efforts could not permit  
18 the child to remain at home.

19           5. Before a child may be removed from the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child  
20 by order of a juvenile court, excluding commitments to the division of youth services, the court  
21 shall in its orders:

22           (1) State whether removal of the child is necessary to protect the child and the reasons  
23 therefor;

24           (2) Describe the services available to the family before removal of the child, including  
25 in-home services;

26           (3) Describe the efforts made to provide those services relevant to the needs of the family  
27 before the removal of the child;

28           (4) State why efforts made to provide family services described did not prevent removal  
29 of the child; and

30           (5) State whether efforts made to prevent removal of the child were reasonable, based  
31 upon the needs of the family and child.

32           6. If continuation of reasonable efforts, as described in this section, is determined by the  
33 division to be inconsistent with establishing a permanent placement for the child, the division  
34 shall take such steps as are deemed necessary by the division, including seeking modification of  
35 any court order to modify the permanency plan for the child.

36           7. The division shall not be required to make reasonable efforts, as defined in this  
37 section, but has the discretion to make reasonable efforts if a court of competent jurisdiction has  
38 determined that:

39           (1) The parent has subjected the child **or any child of the parent** to a severe act or  
40 recurrent acts of physical, emotional or sexual abuse toward the child, including an act of incest,  
41 **or the acts were committed by another person under circumstances that indicate that the**  
42 **parent knew or should have known that such acts were being committed toward the child**  
43 **or any child of the parent;** or

44           (2) The parent has:

45           (a) Committed murder of another child of the parent;

46           (b) Committed voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent;

47           (c) Aided or abetted, attempted, conspired or solicited to commit such a murder or  
48 voluntary manslaughter; or

49           (d) Committed a felony assault that resulted in serious bodily injury to the child or to  
50 another child of the parent; or

51           (3) The parent's parental rights to a sibling have been involuntarily terminated.

52           8. If the court determines that reasonable efforts, as described in this section, are not  
53 required to be made by the division, the court shall hold a permanency hearing within thirty days  
54 after the court has made such determination. The division shall complete whatever steps are  
55 necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child.

56           9. The division may concurrently engage in reasonable efforts, as described in this  
57 section, while engaging in such other measures as are deemed appropriate by the division to  
58 establish a permanent placement for the child.

          453.005. 1. The provisions of sections 453.005 to 453.400 shall be construed so as to  
2 promote the best interests and welfare of the child in recognition of the entitlement of the child  
3 to a permanent and stable home.

4           2. The division of family services and all persons involved in the adoptive placement of  
5 children as provided in subdivisions (1), (2) and (4) of section 453.014, shall provide for the  
6 diligent recruitment of potential adoptive homes that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of  
7 children in the state for whom adoptive homes are needed.

8           3. [In the selection of an adoptive home, consideration shall be given to both a child's  
9 cultural, racial and ethnic background and the capacity of the adoptive parents to meet the needs  
10 of a child of a specific background, as one of a number of factors used in determining whether  
11 a placement is in the child's best interests. This factor must, however, be applied on an  
12 individualized basis, not by general rules.

13           4.] Placement of a child in an adoptive home may not be delayed or denied on the basis  
14 of race, color or national origin.

          453.010. 1. Any person desiring to adopt another person as his or her child shall petition  
2 the juvenile division of the circuit court of the county in which:

3           (1) The person seeking to adopt resides;

4           (2) The child sought to be adopted was born;

5           (3) The child is located at the time of the filing of the petition; or

6           (4) Either birth person resides.

7           2. A petition to adopt shall not be dismissed or denied on the grounds that the petitioner  
8 is not domiciled or does not reside in any of the venues set forth in subdivision (2), (3) or (4) of  
9 subsection 1 of this section.

10           3. If the person sought to be adopted is a child who is under the prior and continuing  
11 jurisdiction of a court pursuant to the provision of chapter 211, RSMo, any person desiring to  
12 adopt such person as his or her child shall petition the juvenile division of the circuit court which  
13 has jurisdiction over the child for permission to adopt such person as his or her child. Upon  
14 receipt of a motion from the petitioner and consent of the receiving court, the juvenile division  
15 of the circuit court which has jurisdiction over the child may transfer jurisdiction to the juvenile

16 division of a circuit court within any of the alternative venues set forth in subsection 1 of this  
17 section.

18 4. If the petitioner has a spouse living and competent to join in the petition, such spouse  
19 may join therein, and in such case the adoption shall be by them jointly. If such a spouse does  
20 not join the petition the court in its discretion may, after a hearing, order such joinder, and if such  
21 order is not complied with may dismiss the petition.

22 5. Upon receipt of a properly filed petition, a court, as defined in this section, shall hear  
23 such petition in a timely fashion. A court or any child-placing agency shall not deny or delay the  
24 placement of a child for adoption when an approved family is available, regardless of the  
25 approved family's residence or domicile. **The court shall expedite the placement of a child  
26 for adoption pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.**

453.070. 1. Except as provided in subsection 5 of this section, no decree for the  
2 adoption of a child under eighteen years of age shall be entered for the petitioner or petitioners  
3 in such adoption as ordered by the juvenile court having jurisdiction, until a full investigation,  
4 which includes an assessment of the adoptive parents, an appropriate postplacement assessment  
5 and a summary of written reports as provided for in section 453.026, and any other pertinent  
6 information relevant to whether the child is suitable for adoption by the petitioner and whether  
7 the petitioner is suitable as a parent for the child, has been made. The report shall also include  
8 a statement to the effect that the child has been considered as a potential subsidy recipient.

9 2. Such investigation shall be made, as directed by the court having jurisdiction, either  
10 by the division of family services of the state department of social services, a juvenile court  
11 officer, a licensed child-placement agency, a social worker licensed pursuant to chapter 337,  
12 RSMo, or other suitable person appointed by the court. The results of such investigation shall  
13 be embodied in a written report that shall be submitted to the court within ninety days of the  
14 request for the investigation.

15 3. The department of social services, division of family services, shall develop rules and  
16 regulations regarding the content of the assessment of the petitioner or petitioners. The content  
17 of the assessment shall include but not be limited to, a report on the condition of the petitioner's  
18 home and information on the petitioner's education, financial, marital, medical and psychological  
19 status and criminal background check. If an assessment is conducted after August 28, 1997, but  
20 prior to the promulgation of rules and regulations by the department concerning the contents of  
21 such assessment, any discrepancy between the contents of the actual assessment and the contents  
22 of the assessment required by department rule shall not be used as the sole basis for invalidating  
23 an adoption. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated pursuant to the authority of this section  
24 shall become effective unless it has been promulgated pursuant to the provisions of chapter 536,  
25 RSMo.

26           4. The assessment of petitioner or petitioners shall be submitted to the petitioner and to  
27 the court prior to the scheduled hearing of the adoptive petition.

28           5. In cases where the adoption or custody involves a child under eighteen years of age  
29 that is the natural child of one of the petitioners and where all of the parents required by this  
30 chapter to give consent to the adoption or transfer of custody have given such consent, the  
31 juvenile court may waive the investigation and report, except the criminal background check, and  
32 enter the decree for the adoption or order the transfer of custody without such investigation and  
33 report.

34           6. In the case of an investigation and report made by the division of family services by  
35 order of the court, the court may order the payment of a reasonable fee by the petitioner to cover  
36 the costs of the investigation and report.

37           7. Any adult person or persons over the age of eighteen, who, as foster parent or parents,  
38 have cared for a foster child continuously for a period of [twelve] **nine** months or more and  
39 bonding has occurred as evidenced by the positive emotional and physical interaction between  
40 the foster parent and child, may apply to such authorized agency for the placement of such child  
41 with them for the purpose of adoption if the child is eligible for adoption. The agency and court  
42 shall give preference and first consideration for adoptive placements to foster parents. However,  
43 the final determination of the propriety of the adoption of such foster child shall be within the  
44 sole discretion of the court.

          453.073. 1. The division of family services is authorized to grant a subsidy to a child  
2 in one of the forms of allotment defined in section 453.065. Determination of the amount of  
3 monetary need is to be made by the division at the time of placement, if practicable, and in  
4 reference to the needs of the child, including consideration of the physical and mental condition,  
5 age and racial and ethnic background of the child in each case; provided, however, that the  
6 subsidy amount shall not exceed the expenses of foster care and medical care for foster children  
7 paid under the homeless, dependent and neglected foster care program.

8           2. The subsidy shall be paid for children who have been in the care and custody of the  
9 division of family services under the homeless, dependent and neglected foster care program.  
10 In the case of a child who has been in the care and custody of a private child-caring or  
11 child-placing agency or in the care and custody of the division of youth services or the  
12 department of mental health, a subsidy shall be available from the division of family services  
13 subsidy program in the same manner and under the same circumstances and conditions as  
14 provided for a child who has been in the care and custody of the division of family services.

15           3. Within thirty days after the authorization for the grant of a subsidy by the division of  
16 family services, a written agreement shall be entered into by the division and the parents. The  
17 agreement shall set forth the following terms and conditions:

- 18 (1) The type of allotment;  
19 (2) The amount of assistance payments;  
20 (3) The services to be provided;  
21 (4) The time period for which the subsidy is granted, if that period is reasonably  
22 ascertainable;  
23 (5) The obligation of the parents to inform the division when they are no longer  
24 providing support to the child or when events affect the subsidy eligibility of the child;  
25 (6) The eligibility of the child for Medicaid.

26 [4. In the case that the subsidized family moves from the state of Missouri, the granted  
27 subsidy shall remain in force as stipulated in the allotment agreement, as long as the adopting  
28 family follows the established requirements and, provided further, that a subsidized family which  
29 has moved its residence from the state of Missouri shall, as a condition for the continuance of  
30 the granted subsidy, submit to the division of family services by the thirtieth day of June of each  
31 year, on a form to be provided by such division, a statement of the amounts paid for expenses  
32 for the care and maintenance of the adopted child in the preceding year. If the subsidized family  
33 fails to submit such form by the thirtieth day of June of any year, payments under the provisions  
34 of sections 453.065 to 453.074 to a family which has moved its residence from the state of  
35 Missouri shall cease.]

453.080. 1. The court shall conduct a hearing to determine whether the adoption shall  
2 be finalized. During such hearing, the court shall ascertain whether:

- 3 (1) The person sought to be adopted, if a child, has been in the lawful and actual custody  
4 of the petitioner for a period of at least six months prior to entry of the adoption decree; **except**  
5 **that the six-month period shall be waived if the person sought to be adopted is a child who**  
6 **is under the prior and continuing jurisdiction of a court pursuant to chapter 211, RSMo,**  
7 **and the person desiring to adopt the child is the child's current foster parent.** "Lawful and  
8 actual custody" shall include a transfer of custody pursuant to the laws of this state, another state,  
9 a territory of the United States, or another country;  
10 (2) The court has received and reviewed a postplacement assessment on the monthly  
11 contacts with the adoptive family pursuant to section 453.077, except for good cause shown in  
12 the case of a child adopted from a foreign country;  
13 (3) The court has received and reviewed an updated financial affidavit;  
14 (4) The court has received the recommendations of the guardian ad litem and has  
15 received and reviewed the recommendations of the person placing the child, the person making  
16 the assessment and the person making the postplacement assessment;  
17 (5) There is compliance with the uniform child custody jurisdiction act, sections 452.440  
18 to 452.550, RSMo;

- 19 (6) There is compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act, if applicable;
- 20 (7) There is compliance with the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
- 21 pursuant to section 210.620, RSMo; and
- 22 (8) It is fit and proper that such adoption should be made.
- 23 2. If a petition for adoption has been filed pursuant to section 453.010 and a transfer of
- 24 custody has occurred pursuant to section 453.110, the court may authorize the filing for
- 25 finalization in another state if the adoptive parents are domiciled in that state.
- 26 3. If the court determines the adoption should be finalized, a decree shall be issued
- 27 setting forth the facts and ordering that from the date of the decree the adoptee shall be for all
- 28 legal intents and purposes the child of the petitioner or petitioners. The court may decree that
- 29 the name of the person sought to be adopted be changed, according to the prayer of the petition.
- 30 4. Before the completion of an adoption, the exchange of information among the parties
- 31 shall be at the discretion of the parties. Upon completion of an adoption, further contact among
- 32 the parties shall be at the discretion of the adoptive parents. The court shall not have jurisdiction
- 33 to deny continuing contact between the adopted person and the birth parent, or an adoptive parent
- 34 and a birth parent. Additionally, the court shall not have jurisdiction to deny an exchange of
- 35 identifying information between an adoptive parent and a birth parent.

**476.777. 1. There is hereby established in the state treasury a special fund, to be**

**2 known as the "Missouri CASA Fund". The state treasurer shall credit to and deposit in**

**3 the Missouri CASA fund all moneys which may be appropriated to it by the general**

**4 assembly and also any gifts, contributions, grants, bequests or other aid received from**

**5 federal, private or other sources, in addition to any moneys deposited pursuant to section**

**6 488.636, RSMo. The general assembly may appropriate moneys into the fund to support**

**7 the court-appointed special advocate (CASA) program throughout the state.**

**8 2. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the Missouri CASA fund in the same**

**9 manner as surplus state funds are invested pursuant to section 30.260, RSMo. All earnings**

**10 resulting from the investment of moneys in the fund shall be credited to the Missouri**

**11 CASA fund.**

**12 3. The state courts administrator shall administer and disburse moneys in the**

**13 Missouri CASA fund based on the following requirements:**

**14 (1) The office of state courts administrator shall set aside funding for new start-up**

**15 CASA programs throughout the state;**

**16 (2) Every recognized CASA program shall receive a base rate allocation, with**

**17 availability of additional funding based on the number of children with abuse or neglect**

**18 cases under the jurisdiction of the court; and**

**19 (3) All CASA programs being considered for funding shall be recognized by and**

20 **affiliated with the state and national CASA associations.**

21 **4. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080, RSMo, to the contrary, moneys**  
22 **in the Missouri CASA fund shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund at the**  
23 **end of the biennium.**

**488.636. In addition to all other court costs for domestic relations cases, the circuit**  
2 **clerk shall collect an additional surcharge in the amount of one dollar per case for each**  
3 **domestic relations petition filed before a circuit judge or associate circuit judge. Such**  
4 **surcharges collected by circuit court clerks shall be collected and dispersed as provided by**  
5 **sections 488.010 to 488.020. Such fees shall be payable to the state treasurer, to be**  
6 **deposited into the Missouri CASA fund.**

568.030. 1. A person commits the crime of abandonment of a child in the first degree  
2 if, as a parent, guardian or other person legally charged with the care or custody of a child less  
3 than four years old, he leaves the child in any place with purpose wholly to abandon it, under  
4 circumstances which are likely to result in serious physical injury or death.

5 **2. It shall be an affirmative defense to prosecution pursuant to this section that the**  
6 **defendant voluntarily delivered the child pursuant to section 210.950, RSMo.**

7 **3. Abandonment of a child in the first degree is a class B felony.**

568.045. 1. A person commits the crime of endangering the welfare of a child in the first  
2 degree if:

3 (1) The person knowingly acts in a manner that creates a substantial risk to the life, body,  
4 or health of a child less than seventeen years old; or

5 (2) The person knowingly engages in sexual conduct with a person under the age of  
6 seventeen years over whom the person is a parent, guardian, or otherwise charged with the care  
7 and custody;

8 (3) The person knowingly encourages, aids or causes a child less than seventeen years  
9 of age to engage in any conduct which violates the provisions of chapter 195, RSMo;

10 (4) Such person enlists the aid, either through payment or coercion, of a person less than  
11 seventeen years of age to unlawfully manufacture, compound, produce, prepare, sell, transport,  
12 test or analyze amphetamine or methamphetamine or any of their analogues, or to obtain any  
13 material used to manufacture, compound, produce, prepare, test or analyze amphetamine or  
14 methamphetamine or any of their analogues; or

15 (5) Such person, in the presence of a person less than seventeen years of age, unlawfully  
16 manufactures, compounds, produces, prepares, sells, transports, tests or analyzes amphetamine  
17 or methamphetamine or any of their analogues.

18 **2. It shall be an affirmative defense to prosecution pursuant to this section that the**  
19 **defendant voluntarily delivered the child pursuant to section 210.950, RSMo.**

20           **3.** Endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree is a class D felony unless the  
21 offense is committed as part of a ritual or ceremony, or except on a second or subsequent  
22 offense, in which case the crime is a class C felony.

          568.050. 1. A person commits the crime of endangering the welfare of a child in the  
2 second degree if:

3           (1) [He] **Such person** with criminal negligence acts in a manner that creates a substantial  
4 risk to the life, body or health of a child less than seventeen years old; or

5           (2) [He] **Such person** knowingly encourages, aids or causes a child less than seventeen  
6 years old to engage in any conduct which causes or tends to cause the child to come within the  
7 provisions of paragraph (d) of subdivision (2) of subsection 1 or subdivision (3) of subsection  
8 1 of section 211.031, RSMo; or

9           (3) Being a parent, guardian or other person legally charged with the care or custody of  
10 a child less than seventeen years old, [he] **such person** recklessly fails or refuses to exercise  
11 reasonable diligence in the care or control of such child to prevent him **or her** from coming  
12 within the provisions of paragraph (c) of subdivision (1) of subsection 1 or paragraph (d) of  
13 subdivision (2) of subsection 1 or subdivision (3) of subsection 1 of section 211.031, RSMo; or

14           (4) [He] **Such person** knowingly encourages, aids or causes a child less than seventeen  
15 years of age to enter into any room, building or other structure which is a public nuisance as  
16 defined in section 195.130, RSMo.

17           2. Nothing in this section shall be construed to mean the welfare of a child is endangered  
18 for the sole reason that [he] **the child** is being provided nonmedical remedial treatment  
19 recognized and permitted under the laws of this state.

20           **3. It shall be an affirmative defense to prosecution pursuant to this section that the**  
21 **defendant voluntarily delivered the child pursuant to section 210.950, RSMo.**

22           **4.** Endangering the welfare of a child in the second degree is a class A misdemeanor  
23 unless the offense is committed as part of a ritual or ceremony, in which case the crime is a class  
24 D felony.